Dear Advisory Committee Members

The time is quickly upon us for another fish and game regulatory season. This year the Board of Game will focus on hunting and trapping for the Interior, Western and Arctic regions of the state. The Board of Fisheries is addressing Cook Inlet and Kodiak finfish, and Statewide (excluding Southeast and Yakutat) king and Tanner crab and supplemental issues. As always, the boards appreciate and rely on the local knowledge and input by the advisory committees you represent. With four new board members this cycle, it’s important they hear from you in their decision-making process.

In this newsletter we are again immersed in budget reduction efforts – for which we need your help. The Boards Support budget was not reduced during the Legislative session, but careful planning is still required to maximize funds. We also need nominations for this year’s AC Recognition Program to honor those members who help bring about positive change for their local areas.

Thank you for your continued service,

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Alaska’s Hunters & Anglers
Support Fish & Game Management

Governor Walker signed House Bill 137 into law, raising hunting, trapping, and sport fishing license fees for both residents and nonresidents. Beginning January 1, 2017, resident hunting licenses will increase from $25 to $45; sport fishing licenses from $24 to $29; and trapping from $15 to $25. Resident tag fees remain unchanged, and for young Alaskans, the age at which a license is required will be raised from 16 to 18. Most nonresident hunting, trapping and sport fishing license fees will increase, and all nonresident big game tags will double in price.

During the hearings on this bill, several hunting and fishing organizations voiced support for the increase, the first in more than 20 years; it is expected to generate $9 million in new revenue for management, research, habitat, and sport fisheries enhancement efforts. It will also secure millions of federal dollars through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Fund to benefit Alaska.

Licenses for 2017 are available online, at 2016 rates, now through the end of the year at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=license.main.

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Other fish & game
• October 28, 5pm - AC Excellence in Service Award applications due. Contact your regional coordinator, or apply online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acrecognition.
• November 1, 8am - December 15, 5pm Draw & subsistence permit hunt application period

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Welcome! New Board of Fisheries Members

Israel Payton

Israel Payton is a lifelong Alaskan soon to be introduced to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). We spoke with him via email about his experience as a BOF member and upcoming cycle. You can reach him at israelbof@gmail.com.

What’s unique to your background that brings you to the BOF?

I was born and raised on a river in remote Alaska. Some of my earliest memories revolve around harvesting fish for the winter. I understand what it can mean if you don’t have a good run and can’t put up enough fish to last the winter. At an early age, I was taken to AC meetings and BOF meetings and was taught why it was important to be involved. I have seen first-hand how one person can make a difference. I have traveled and fished across Alaska and have a good working knowledge of many areas. Up until my appointment to the BOF, I was an active AC member for years. Fish are a huge reason why people live, work, and vacation in Alaska. I understand and can relate to why this resource is so important to many communities and users.

Are there any issues you’re looking to address?

I don’t have any specific issues or agendas; I think being open-minded and listening to all sides of an issue and getting as much information as possible is key. I focus on making the BOF a place to reach out to users and be open and accessible. I requested my email be put on the BOF members’ public web page under my bio, which it has. I am an advocate of the process and am constantly encouraging people to participate in it.

As a former AC member, how do you see the role of ACs?

ACs are a very important part of the process. ACs spend a lot of time and energy submitting proposals and advising the board on the merits of proposals, all with volunteer time. In the future I would like to see the administration consider more AC members for BOF or BOG appointments. Having active AC participation is key to the fish and game regulatory process.

Anything else you’d like to share?

I would encourage people to be active participants not only in your AC meetings but afterwards as well. Go to your local ADFG&O office and introduce yourself to the staff and area managers, go to a board meeting even if you’re not the AC representative, talk to board members, ADFG&O staff, other users and AC members. There are usually experienced AC members that would be happy to show others how it all works. The board process may be intimidating at first but the board members and ADFG&O staff are not. They are people like yourself that share a passion for fish and game resources.

John Jensen’s Simply Marvelous! Salmon Chowder

3 tbsp butter or olive oil
1/2 cup sliced onions
1/2 cup sliced celery
1/2 cup sliced red pepper
2 cups minced garlic
2 cups cubed potatoes
2 carrots, diced
2 cups chicken broth
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp dill weed
2 2-1/2 cups couped
1/2 cup fresh/frozen (thawed) salmon
2 cups cubed potatoes
1/2 cup chopped red pepper
1 cup evaporated milk
11/2 cups or corn, or fresh cooked corn

Directions:
1. Melt butter/oil in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion, celery, garlic until tender. Stir in potatoes & carrots served briefly; add spices & then the broth. Bring to a boil, reduce heat. Simmer 20 minutes.
2. Stir in evaporated milk & corn; heat slightly – five minutes or so, add the salmon last.
3. Simmer gently just until salmon is cooked through, about another five minutes.

What to Know About AC Travel

As state revenues decline, the Governor’s Office has issued travel restrictions for board meetings. These restrictions are provided for one face-to-face meeting for each AC cycle. Additional meetings, for those requiring travel funds, will be held by teleconference.

Travel to AC meetings. While the Governor’s Office saved some restrictions for AC travel, all AC travel must be approved by the Governor. This means planning is required to receive approval in advance of travel.

Nov. 15: preliminary travel notice deadline. AC chairs are asked to make an early (but not binding) assessment of which board meetings the AC will likely attend in light of this cycle’s proposals. Regional coordinators will ask for this information by Nov. 15. For those ACs not heard from, the AC may miss the opportunity to attend board meetings if funding is unavailable.

Three-week travel planning horizon. We need your help reducing costs with careful planning. Final confirmation of who is traveling, who will pay, and when ACs need to arrive 3-4 weeks before departure is in order to book airfare. Airline savings can be upwards of 40% with a few weeks’ notice.

Open Meetings Act

The Open Meetings Act (Act) is an important part of the state’s regulatory process. Government entities, including ACs, must abide by it, including the policy of adequate public notice:

• Any gathering of more than three members or a quorum, whichever is less, must provide notice of a meeting. This means if you and three other AC members meet for coffee to discuss fish and game issues, you must notice the meeting.

• Notices must be posted on the State’s online public notice system.

• Notices must be done in a reasonable time before a meeting. Reasonable time is left for some interpretation, but unless there is an emerging and clear agenda, please post a public notice at least 10 to 14 days in advance as a good rule of thumb.

• Notices must generally identify the subjects to be discussed.

Please keep the following in mind –

• If an AC wishes its recommendations to be acknowledged by the Boards of Game and Fisheries as done in the past, compliance with the Act, those recommendations must be derived at an appropriately noticed meeting.

• If an AC wishes to submit a proposal for boards of Game and Fisheries in compliance with the Act, that proposal must be approved by the AC at an appropriately noticed meeting.

Boards Support and regional coordinators are here to assist the ACs in meeting the terms of the Act. And if you plan to meet your fellow AC members for a weekly cup of coffee or some other form of interaction, please keep the conversation to sports, weather, and other non-fish and game topics.

What is Moss Legal?

ADF&G’s online video library is rich in resources on hunting and fishing, biology, research, how tos, regulation information, and more. Some of the most popular resources include:

• Is This Moose Legal? Judging the age, sex, and antler configuration
• How to Fish for Arctic Grayling
• Field Care of Big Game Meat: a step-by-step method to field dress a moose, no matter how or where the animal has wounded
• A Bear’s Eye View: A collar-mounted camera shows a day in the life of a 10-year-old, 700-pound male grizzly

Find all these resources and others at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=multimedia.main.

Excellence Award Nominations Now Open

Nominate an AC, a group, or an individual by October 28. Up to five awards are given each year for demonstrated leadership; improving sustainability, economics, or community health; or especially commendable service. Last year’s winners were:

• The GASH AC
• Dave Martin & Steve Vanek, Central Peninsula AC
• Frank Kelty, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC
• Pete Schaefer, Kotzebue AC
• Jehnifer Ehmann, Matanuska Valley AC

For more than ten years, ADF&G’s online monthly magazine, Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, has covered the latest in the great outdoors. A behind-the-scenes peek into Alaska’s biology, research, education, and management, the news covers everything from salmon hatchery breeding to the history of salmon hatcheries. Sign up for monthly emails or catch it online at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wlnews.main.